

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new Claims 74 to 85, and amend Claims 31, 33, 34, 39, 51 to 53, 57 to 60, 64 to 66, 68, 69, 72 and 73 as shown below.

1. to 30. (Cancelled)

~~1.~~ 31. (Currently Amended) A remote maintenance system for industrial equipment installed at a remote location, said system comprising:

B1  
a database system which is connected to the ~~Internet~~ internet and which stores maintenance information relating to of the industrial equipment, wherein the maintenance information includes both status information relating to the industrial equipment and response information which is associated with the status information and which is used for handling a problem associated with the industrial equipment, as defined by the status information; and

a security system that allows a limited user of the industrial equipment to access the database system through the ~~Internet~~ internet to derive the maintenance information for handling ~~a trouble~~ the problem associated with the industrial equipment.

~~2.~~ 32. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim ~~31~~, wherein said database is updated based on the access of the user.

<sup>3</sup>/~~33~~. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim <sup>1</sup>/~~31~~, wherein said database stores information for identifying an industrial equipment, problem ~~trouble~~ states that may occur in the identified industrial equipment, and corresponding countermeasures against the ~~registered trouble~~ problem states.

<sup>4</sup>/~~34~~. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim <sup>1</sup>/~~31~~, wherein said database system automatically notifies an appropriate personnel of the problem ~~trouble~~ with the industrial equipment.

β1 <sup>5</sup>/~~35~~. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim <sup>4</sup>/~~34~~, wherein said database system automatically sends an e-mail to the appropriate personnel.

<sup>6</sup>/~~36~~. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim <sup>1</sup>/~~31~~, further comprises a LAN system connecting a plurality of computers and the database system, each of the plurality of computers being capable of accessing the database system through the LAN system.

<sup>7</sup>/~~37~~. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim <sup>1</sup>/~~31~~, wherein said security system comprises at least one of a codec system providing an encoded communication and a fire wall.

<sup>8</sup>/~~38~~. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim <sup>7</sup>/~~37~~, wherein said codec system periodically changes codec algorithms.

9 39. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 31, wherein the industrial equipment comprises a semiconductor manufacturing ~~apparatus~~ apparatus, and wherein the maintenance information comprises ~~trouble~~ problem information of the semiconductor apparatus.

[ 40. to 50. (Cancelled)

13 51. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~shearing~~ sharing information relating to ~~of~~ industrial equipment, comprising:

β1 providing a database system which is connected to the ~~Internet~~ internet and which stores maintenance information relating to ~~of~~ the industrial equipment, wherein the maintenance information includes both status information relating to the industrial equipment and response information associated with the status information and which is used for handling a problem associated with the industrial equipment, as defined by the status information;

allowing a first specified user of the industrial equipment with a first security system to access the database through the ~~Internet~~ internet to derive the maintenance information; and

allowing a second specified user, different from the first specified user, of the industrial equipment with a second security system to access the database system through the internet to derive the maintenance information ~~Internet~~, wherein the first and second security systems have different kinds of codec systems from each other.

<sup>14</sup>/~~52~~. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim <sup>13</sup>/~~51~~, wherein the database stores information for identifying an industrial equipment, problem ~~trouble~~ states that may occur in the identified industrial equipment, and corresponding countermeasures against the ~~registered trouble~~ problem states.

<sup>15</sup>/~~53~~. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim <sup>13</sup>/~~51~~, further comprising a step of automatically notifying an appropriate personnel of the problem associated ~~trouble~~ with the industrial equipment.

B1 <sup>16</sup>/~~54~~. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim <sup>15</sup>/~~53~~, wherein said notifying step comprises automatically sending an e-mail to the appropriate personnel.

<sup>17</sup>/~~55~~. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim <sup>13</sup>/~~51~~, wherein each of the first and second security systems comprises at least one of a codec system providing an encoded communication and a fire wall.

<sup>18</sup>/~~56~~. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim <sup>13</sup>/~~51~~, wherein each of the codec systems periodically changes codec algorithms.

<sup>19</sup>/~~57~~. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim <sup>13</sup>/~~51~~, wherein the industrial equipment comprises a semiconductor manufacturing apparatus and the information comprises ~~trouble~~ problem information of associated with the semiconductor apparatus.

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58.

(Currently Amended) A method for sharing information of

industrial equipment, comprising:

providing a first database system which is connected to the internet ~~Internet~~ and which stores first maintenance information relating to ~~of~~ first industrial equipment, wherein the first maintenance information includes both first status information of the first industrial equipment and first response information which is associated with the first status information and which is used for handling a problem associated with the first industrial equipment as defined by the first status information;

providing a second database system which is connected to the internet ~~Internet~~ and which stores second maintenance information relating to ~~of~~ second industrial equipment, wherein the second maintenance information includes both second status information of the second industrial equipment and second response information which is associated with the second status information and which is used for handling a problem associated with the second industrial equipment as defined by the second status information; and

allowing a limited user of the first industrial equipment and the second industrial equipment with security systems to access the first database system and the second database system ~~databases~~ through the internet and derive the first and second maintenance information ~~Internet~~.

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59.

(Currently Amended) The method according to claim <sup>23</sup>58, wherein

each of the databases stores information for identifying industrial equipment, problem

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trouble states that may occur in the identified industrial equipment, and corresponding countermeasures against the ~~registered trouble sheets~~ problem states.

<sup>25</sup>~~25~~ 60. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim <sup>23</sup>~~58~~, further comprising a step of automatically notifying an appropriate personnel of ~~trouble~~ the problem associated with the first industrial equipment or the second industrial equipment.

<sup>26</sup>~~26~~ 61. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim <sup>25</sup>~~60~~, wherein said notifying step comprises automatically sending an e-mail to the appropriate personnel.

B1 <sup>27</sup>~~27~~ 62. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim <sup>23</sup>~~58~~, wherein the security system includes at least one of a codec system providing an encoded communication and a fire wall.

<sup>28</sup>~~28~~ 63. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim <sup>27</sup>~~62~~, wherein each of the codec systems periodically changes codec algorithms.

<sup>29</sup>~~29~~ 64. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim <sup>23</sup>~~58~~, wherein each of the first industrial equipment and the second industrial equipment includes a semiconductor manufacturing apparatus and the information includes ~~trouble~~ problem information ~~of~~ associated with the semiconductor apparatus.

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65. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 58, wherein the first database system and the second database system ~~databases~~ are provided by different vendors ~~from each other~~.

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66. (Currently Amended) A method for sharing information relating to of industrial equipment, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a database system which is connected to the ~~Internet~~ internet and which stores maintenance information relating to of industrial equipment, wherein the maintenance information includes both status information of the industrial equipment and response information which is associated with the status information and which is used for handling a problem associated with the industrial equipment, as defined by the status information;

connecting a plurality of departments[[,]] of a vendor [[who]] which provides the industrial equipment, with a computer network system such that each of the plurality of departments is able to access the database system to derive the maintenance information, the plurality of departments including at least ~~one of~~ a maintenance department, a manufacturing department and a developing department; and

allowing a user of the industrial equipment with a security system to access the database system through the ~~Internet~~ internet to derive the maintenance information.

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67. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 66, wherein each of the departments is able to fully access the database system and the user is able to access limited information of the database system.

<sup>36</sup>~~38~~. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim <sup>37</sup>~~66~~, wherein the database stores information for identifying an industrial equipment, trouble problem states that may occur in the identified industrial equipment, and corresponding countermeasures against the ~~registered~~ trouble problem states.

<sup>37</sup>~~69~~. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim <sup>34</sup>~~66~~, further comprising a step of automatically notifying an appropriate personnel of trouble problem associated with the industrial equipment.

<sup>38</sup>~~70~~. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim <sup>37</sup>~~69~~, wherein said notifying step includes automatically sending an e-mail to the appropriate personnel.

<sup>39</sup>~~71~~. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim <sup>34</sup>~~66~~, wherein the security system includes at least one of a codec system providing an encoded communication and a fire wall.

<sup>40</sup>~~72~~. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim <sup>39</sup>~~[[66]] 71~~, wherein each of the codec systems periodically changes codec algorithms.

<sup>41</sup>~~73~~. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim <sup>34</sup>~~66~~, wherein the industrial equipment comprises a semiconductor manufacturing apparatus and the information comprises trouble problem information relating to of the semiconductor apparatus.



<sup>10</sup>74. (New) The system according to Claim ~~31~~<sup>1</sup>, further comprising a information transmitting system which transmits the status information relating to the industrial equipment to the database through the internet.

<sup>11</sup>75. (New) The system according to Claim ~~31~~<sup>11</sup>, wherein the internet uses a TCP/IP communication protocol.

<sup>12</sup>76. (New) The system according to Claim ~~31~~<sup>11</sup>, wherein the internet is a worldwide communication system.

B1 <sup>20</sup>77. (New) The method according to Claim ~~51~~<sup>13</sup>, further comprising a step of transmitting the status information relating to the industrial equipment to the database through the internet.

<sup>21</sup>78. (New) The method according to Claim ~~51~~<sup>13</sup>, wherein the internet uses a TCP/IP communication protocol.

<sup>22</sup>79. (New) The method according to Claim ~~51~~<sup>13</sup>, wherein the internet is a worldwide communication system.

<sup>31</sup>80. (New) The method according to Claim ~~58~~<sup>23</sup>, further comprising a step of transmitting the status information relating to the industrial equipment to the first and second database through the internet.

<sup>32</sup>~~31~~. (New) The method according to Claim <sup>23</sup>~~58~~, wherein the internet uses TCP/IP communication protocol.

<sup>33</sup>~~32~~. (New) The method according to Claim <sup>23</sup>~~58~~, wherein the internet is a worldwide communication system.

<sup>42</sup>~~83~~. (New) The method according to Claim <sup>34</sup>~~66~~, further comprising a step of transmitting the status information relating to the industrial equipment to the database through the internet.

<sup>43</sup>~~84~~. (New) The method according to Claim <sup>34</sup>~~66~~, wherein the internet uses a TCP/IP communication protocol.

<sup>44</sup>~~85~~. (New) The method according to Claim <sup>34</sup>~~66~~, wherein the internet is a worldwide communication system.

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